

Report card

of the Small Claims Courts System



MARYLAND

Overall Grade: **D**

Dollar Limit	D
Injunctive Relief	F
Help with Collecting A Judgement	F
Small Claims Advisors	F
Extended Courtroom Hours	F
Guides & Simplified Forms	A
Low Filing Fees	A
Encourages Self-Representation	C
Uses Mediation	C
Overall Grade	D

About Maryland's Small Claims Court

- Earned the eighth worst ranking out of 47 jurisdictions with small claims courts.
- Maryland's small claims dollar limit of \$2,500 is the eighth lowest in the country.
- Last year, legislation raising the limit to \$5,000 was passed unanimously by both houses of the General Assembly, but was vetoed by Governor Parris Glendening at the request of the state's trial lawyers. This year, similar legislation is expected to once again pass the legislature and go before Governor Glendening.
- One of the least expensive places to bring a small claims case, with an average filing fee of only \$10.
- Mediation is available in six of the ten counties HALT surveyed, although none of them require mediation.

Compiled by

